

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of organizing digital audio tracks on a predetermined media for navigation and selection by a user of an audio player, said predetermined media storing said digital audio tracks in a directory-based file system, said method comprising the steps of:

scanning said predetermined media to locate each of said digital audio tracks and to determine a total number of tracks;

numbering said digital audio tracks with a flat-file selection number from a first flat-file selection number to a last flat-file selection number in a flat file mode;

numbering each directory within said file system containing at least one of said digital audio tracks from a first directory number to a last directory number in a single-level directory mode;

numbering digital audio tracks within each numbered directory with an in-directory selection number from a respective first in-directory selection number to a respective last in-directory selection number;

said user selecting either said flat file mode or said directory mode;

when in said flat file mode, said audio player displaying said flat-file selection numbers and said user searching for a desired digital audio track by sequentially navigating through said flat-file selection numbers; and

when in said directory mode, said audio player displaying said directory numbers and said in-directory selection numbers and said user selecting a desired directory and then searching for a desired digital audio track by sequentially navigating through said in-directory selection numbers.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first flat-file selection number equals 1 and said last flat-file selection number equals said total number of tracks.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first in-directory selection number in each respective numbered directory is equal to 1.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein each respective last in-directory selection number is equal to a total number of said digital audio tracks contained within its respective directory.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said scanning step is comprised of compiling and storing in an index table a respective flat-file selection number, a directory number, and an in-directory selection number assigned to each digital audio track found during said scanning.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said digital audio tracks are identified by a respective file extension in their respective file names of said file system.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said digital audio tracks are encoded as MP3 files.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined media is comprised of a CD-ROM disc.

9. (currently amended) An audio player for reproducing selections from a predetermined media containing digital audio tracks stored in a directory-based file system, said audio player comprising:

an alphanumeric display showing selection number identifying data;

a user control interface for selecting either a flat-file mode or a directory mode and for navigating sequentially through said selection number identifying data in each of said modes; and

a controller for scanning said predetermined media to locate each of said digital audio tracks and to determine a total number of tracks, for numbering said digital audio tracks with a flat-file selection number from a first flat-file selection number to a last flat-file selection number in said flat file mode, for numbering each directory within said file system containing at least one of said digital audio tracks from a first directory number to a last directory number in said directory mode, ~~and~~ for numbering digital audio tracks within each numbered directory with an in-directory selection number from a respective first in-directory selection number to a respective last in-directory selection number, for causing said display to show said flat-file selection number when in said flat file mode, and for causing said display to show said directory number and said in-directory selection number when in said directory mode;

wherein, when in said flat file mode, said controller is responsive to said user control interface for searching for a desired digital audio track by sequentially navigating through said flat-file selection numbers; and

wherein, when in said directory mode, said controller is responsive to said user control interface for selecting a desired directory and then for searching for a desired digital audio track by sequentially navigating through said in-directory selection numbers.

10. (original) The audio player of claim 9 wherein said display further shows an indicator according to a one of said flat file mode or said directory mode that is selected at a particular time.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The audio player of claim ~~11~~ 9 wherein said selection number identifying data for said directory mode is comprised of a directory number followed by an in-directory selection number.

13. (original) The audio player of claim 9 wherein said display further shows a wait message during said scanning of said predetermined media.

14. (original) The audio player of claim 9 further comprising:
an index table compiled during said scanning of said predetermined media for storing a respective flat-file selection number, a directory number, and an in-directory selection number assigned to each digital audio track found during said scanning.